

ALSAGER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

C/4/1

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT FOR THEYEAR 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present my annual Report for 1940.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>AREA</u>	2241 Acres.
Registrar - General's Estimate of the resident population in 1940.	not yet available.
Estimated Population in 1940, from Food Office Records.	3425.
Census, (1931)	2852
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the Rate Books	944
Rateable Value.	£17,405
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£66.38136.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

Since the recent increase in the population the District has ceased to be a purely agricultural and residential one and now has an industry of importance. Other occupations include workers in Pottery, farmers, railway workers and miners and many of the residents take war workers as paying guests.

It is a built up area but the houses are in scattered formation.

Social activities have been considerably curtailed owing to the requisitioning of the only public room of suitable size in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.
Live Births	15.	5.	10.
Legitimate	15.	5.	10.
Illegitimate.		None.	

Birth Rate 4.9 per 1000 inhabitants.

(This refers to Births registered in the Urban District)

Stillbirths : One.

<u>DEATHS.</u>	TOTAL	M.	F.
Transferable deaths from outside the area. Returns to date.	8	5	3
Within the area.	29	16	13

Total deaths 37.

Death Rate. per 1000 inhabitants 12.2

Deaths from puerperal sepsis.	0
Other puerperal causes.	0
Deaths of infants under 1 year.	0
Deaths from measles, whooping cough or infantile Diarrhrea (under 2 years)	0

AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	none
Under 5 years.	1
30 - 40	1
50 - 60	6
60 - 70	12
70 - 80	9
Over 80.	8

(See page 4.)

TOTAL. 37.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers for the Authority.

1. Medical Officer of Health.
2. Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (combined office)

These are both part-time Officers and have held office for 19 years and 33 years respectively.

There is a part-time temporary District Medical Officer (Public Assistance).

There is no Public Vaccinator resident in the area.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The usual arrangements are in force. The Pathological Department of the Royal Infirmary Chester is available for all forms of bacteriological examination.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is no Ambulance kept in the District except that of the A.R.P. Services. A motor ambulance can be obtained without delay from the neighbouring Authorities, such as the Urban District of Sandbach, the Urban District of Kids Grove, the Borough of Crewe or Newcastle, or the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There has been no change in the arrangements in the area for general nursing. The salary of the part-time District Nurse is maintained by public subscriptions to the Alsager Sick Nursing Fund, which is affiliated with the County Association and is administered by a Committee of your Council.

There are no arrangements for nursing infectious diseases and none are required as the patients are removed to Congleton Isolation Hospital, unless private isolation can be provided.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are as mentioned in previous reports.

The Infant Welfare Centre, previously held at Alsager every two weeks has been much interfered with owing to :-

- (1) Difficulty of Shelter accommodation.
- (2) Latterly, requisitioning of room.

Attendance has fallen considerably.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Subsidized by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council.

- (1) Fever. The West Heath Sanatorium, near Congleton. Accommodation for infectious diseases is sufficient and arrangements quite satisfactory.
- (2) Small-pox. The Infirmary at Arclid (not open at present)
- (3) Tuberculosis. 1. The Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, near Market Drayton.
2. The Convalescent Colony at Wrenbury Hall.
- (4) Orthopaedic. An orthopaedic centre is held at Crewe every Monday to deal with these cases at which an orthopaedic specialist attends at intervals. He will arrange for special treatment when necessary. This is provided by the County Council.

Hospital treatment at the North Staffs Royal Infirmary and the Cripples Aid Society Hospital is also available.

- (5) Mental Disease The County Mental Hospital.
- (6) There is no Maternity Hospital for the District. Cases of puerperal fever are received by the North Staffs. Royal Infirmary and provision for specialist and hospital services is made for them under the County Council Scheme. Provision may also be made by the County Council for certain maternity cases to be received into the Linden Grange Maternity Hospital, Crewe.
- (7) The North Staffs. Royal Infirmary provides all other forms of Hospital Treatment and is subscribed to by voluntary contribution from the District.

Midwifery Services.

A maternity nurse has been appointed by the County Council to provide domiciliary service in the District, in pursuance of the Midwives Act. 1936.

She resides within the Urban District of Alsager.

MORTUARY.

Arrangements have been made with the Guardians Committee for taking of bodies to the Mortuary at Arclid in cases of

Fatal accidents occurring in the Alsager District.

When there is no accommodation there, the Alsager A.R.P. Mortuary may be used by permission of the Council.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (See page 2.)

Heart Disease.	11.
Arteris Scleroris	5
Diseases of Lungs.	5.
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4
Lobar Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2
Cancer	2
Disease of Liver	1
Broncho. Pneumonia	1
Pernicious Anaemia	1
Intestinal Obstruction	1
Accident	1
	37

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER: The Council have entered into an agreement to supply water to a Factory now almost completed. Drastic alterations and additions are contemplated, Hostels are also in course of construction and a supply will have to be made available for these also.

In order to meet the increased demands your Council have submitted a scheme to the Ministry of Health for greatly increasing the yield of water by the sinking of a 3rd Borehole upon the same Site. It is proposed to take out the existing gas Plant and Pumps and substitute electrically driven pumps with softening and Filtration Plants, a Chlorination Plant is also included.

Sanction was received to proceed with the boring and this was carried down to a depth of 600 ft, the preliminary test did not prove satisfactory, and Mr. Edgard Moreton of Manchester has been called in to give a Report upon the situation, in the meantime it has been decided to instal the electrically driven pump which had been ordered for the new borehole into the No. 1 in place of the existing Tangye Pump which had failed completely and at the end of the year this work was about to commence. The question of an increased size of pumping and delivery mains to some central point within the District will also have to be decided upon.

A large influx of soldiers into the area has resulted in the "metering" of supplies to as many of the private houses as possible which have been taken over by the Military Authorities.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No changes have taken place.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS. The Day Green Works continue to yield a satisfactory effluent in spite of the large increase of the population but they will have to be kept under observation to see that "over-loading" does not take place.

A new Works to serve the Factory have been erected at Lane Ends and are being maintained by The Council at the request of

The Authorities, they are operating satisfactorily but attention has had to be called to the presence of acid pollution which is having a marked affect upon the materials with which it comes into contact. It is understood that steps are being taken to provide an "extraction" plant.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No material alterations have taken place.

REFUSE DUMPS.

Warning Notices against depositing inflammable material have been issued and additional precautions to prevent spontaneous combustion have been taken by the covering of the face of the dump with a thicker layer of soil.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action taken or necessary.

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

Regular inspections have revealed very few irregularities which have been remedied by informal action.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (a) | Number of inspections made during the year | 245 |
| (b) | Number of notices served during the year | 77 |
| | Informal Notices (dwelling houses) | 45 |
| | General Notices (general nuisances) | 32 |
| (c) | Informal notices were sufficient to obtain the desired results except in one case which will have to be dealt with if a nuisance is caused to adjoining properties. | |

D. H O U S I N G .

Number of new houses erected during the year

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----|
| 1. | By the Local Authority. | 0. |
| 2. | By other Authorities. | 0. |
| 3. | By other bodies or persons. | 0. |

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| 1a. | Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). | 7 |
| b. | Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 29 |
| 2a. | Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. | 5 |
| b. | Number of inspections made for the purpose. | 9 |
| 3. | Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 0 |
| 4. | Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 1 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers.

7

3. Action under Statutory powers during the year:-

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0 |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts. | 0 |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0 |
| (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0 |

4. Housing Act 1936 Part IV Overcrowding.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. | 0 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. | 0 |
| (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. | NONE. |

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections have been made of the various premises concerned and no serious cause for complaint was recorded, the usual minor defects were remedied.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This may be carried out at the Laboratory of the Royal Infirmary, Chester.

E. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 10 cases of notifiable disease (including Tuberculosis) during the year, as follows:

Scarlet Fever	1.
Diphtheria	2.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	3.
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	1.
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	1.
Measles.	2.
	<u>10.</u>

Th cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Cerebro-Spinal Fever were sent to West Heath Sanatorium.

The prevalence of Cancer is below the average rate. There were only 2 deaths from it.

Disinfection of premises, which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Local Authority. Bedding, clothing, etc. are removed to the West Heath Sanatorium for disinfection.

A motor Ambulance is provided there for the conveyance of patients to and from the West Heath Sanatorium.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Blindness) Regulations 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

DIPHTHERIA AND TYPHOID IMMUNISATION.

Your Council have adopted the provision of facilities for immunisation against Diphtheria and organisms of Typhoid Group, on the lines of Circular 2230 from the Ministry of Health.

The scheme is entirely voluntary and arrangements are being made to carry out the process when the names of those who desire it are obtained. The issue of vaccine is free and the expense of Administration rests with your Council.

After a slight epidemic of diphtheria in 1938, 20 children in the Urban District were immunised.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY P. HARPUR. M.D.

30th June, 1941.

